

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 IGA-01 AID-05 FRB-03

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /087 W

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O R 031210Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 938

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, TU

SUBJ: SHIPPING: TURKISH DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES

PARTIALLY MODIFIED

REF: A. ANKARA 7452 B. STATE 231672

1. HAZAR, DIRECTOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) INFORMED ACTING DCM OCTOBER 3 THAT MFA HAD BROUGHT SHIPPING PROBLEM TO ATTENTION OF UNDERSECRETARY OF PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT. HAZAR WANTED U.S. GOVERNMENT TO KNOW THAT OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF OCTOBER 3 CARRIED AMENDMENT TO THE TWO COMMUNIQUEES ON SHIPPING TO WHICH USG HAD OBJECTED. THE AMENDMENT REMOVES EXPORTS FROM TURKEY FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE TWO COMMUNIQUEES. HAZAR SAID HE HOPED THIS WAS SATISFACTORY TO US AND HE STILL PLANNED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS.

A/DCM THANKED HAZAR FOR HIS INFORMATION AS WELL AS FOR HIS EFFORTS TO HELP RESOLVE THIS MATTER AND SAID EMBASSY WOULD

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OBTAIN COPY OF OFFICIAL GAZETTE AND STUDY IT RIGHT AWAY.

2. OUR SUBSEQUENT STUDY OF OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF OCTOBER 3 CONFIRMS THAT COMMUNIQUE SERIES VII, NO. 158, REMOVES EXPORTS FROM PROVISIONS OF THE TWO EARLIER COMMUNIQUEES. HOWEVER, IMPORTS INTO TURKEY ARE STILL SUBJECT TO THE PROCEDURES WHICH GIVE PREFERENCE TO TURKISH SHIPS. A/DCM CALLED BACK HAZAR AND SAID EMBASSY APPRECIATED THIS LATEST ACTION WHICH WENT PART WAY TOWARDS MEETING US OBJECTIONS. HOWEVER, SITUATION IS STILL UNSATISFACTORY TO USG BECAUSE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES CONTINUE TO APPLY TO IMPORTS INTO TURKEY. GOT MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS STILL IN POSITION IN WHICH IT CAN, IN EFFECT, OBLIGE US EXPORTERS TO SHIP CARGOES FOR TURKEY ONLY ON TURKISH SHIPS; IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

THIS IS EXACTLY SAME SITUATION AS EXAMPLE WHICH EMBASSY BROUGHT TO MFA'S ATTENTION OCTOBER 1 (REFS A AND B). A/DCM ASKED IF LATEST AMENDMENT WAS IN FACT CONSEQUENCE OF MFA'S RAISING MATTER WITH PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT. HE REFERRED TO TIME REQUIRED NORMALLY TO DRAFT SUCH MEASURES AND TO HAVE THEM PRINTED IN GAZETTE AND SUGGESTED THAT LATEST AMENDMENT MAY HAVE BEEN RESULT OF SOME OF EMBASSY'S EARLIER DEMARCHES TO MINFINANCE. HAZAR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY SO. HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH UNDERSECRETARY IN PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT ONLY ON OCTOBER 2 AND WAS THEREFORE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO SEE THE NEW AMENDMENT APPEAR SO PROMPTLY.

3. HAZAR ACCEPTED EMBASSY'S POINT THAT SITUATION IS STILL UNSATISFACTORY TO USG AND SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER.

4. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: INASMUCH AS GOT HAS TAKEN STEPS WHICH REMOVE IN PART THE OBJECTIONABLE REGULATIONS AND INASMUCH AS MFA IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER, EMBASSY AGAIN STRONGLY URGES THAT MARITIME ADMINISTRATION SUSPEND FURTHER ITS CANCELLATION OF THE WAIVER EXTENDED TO TURKEY WITH RESPECT TO EXIMBANK-FINANCED CARGOES. WE APPRECIATE THAT MARAD IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM US SHIPPERS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT EVIDENCE OF PARTIAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD MERIT FURTHER DELAY. WE BELIEVE MOREOVER THAT U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY ALLOWING TURKISH OFFICIALS FURTHER FREEDOM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORK THIS OUT. RETALIATORY ACTION BY USG IN MEANTIME, PARTICULARLY WITH TURKISH ELECTIONS JUST AHEAD, WOULD GENERATE ADVERSE PUBLICITY AND STIFFEN RESISTANCE ON PART OF OFFICIALS WHO ARE ALREADY EMBARRASSED OVER THIS ISSUE. OCTOBER 6 THROUGH 8 ARE TURKISH HOLIDAYS (MARKING THE END OF THE ISLAMIC MONTH OF FASTING). CONSEQUENTLY, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS DURING THIS PERIOD.

BERGUS

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